What is claimed is:

[Claim 1]   1. A method of managing inventory, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting an analysis duration and at least one analysis point within the analysis duration;
determining an excess inventory with consideration of a manufacturing limitation and an excess inventory without consideration of the manufacturing limitation for each analysis point;
determining a trapped inventory based on a difference between the excess inventory with consideration of the manufacturing limitation and the excess inventory without consideration of the manufacturing limitation; and
determining an impact of a policy inventory on an inventory consumption.

[Claim 2]   2. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an optimum inventory for each analysis point.

[Claim 3]   3. The method of claim 2, further comprising selecting a cycle time after each analysis point.

[Claim 4]   4. The method of claim 3, wherein the cycle time is selected based on a time period required for manufacturing an inventory.

[Claim 5]   5. The method of claim 3, wherein the optimum inventory is a demand occurring within the cycle time.

[Claim 6]   6. The method of claim 2, further comprising determining a total optimum inventory based on the optimum inventory at each analysis point.

[Claim 7]   7. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an inventory that will be consumed in a short term, an inventory that will be consumed in a mid term, an inventory that will be consumed in a long term and an inventory that will not be consumed in a period of time, wherein the short term, mid term and long term are within the analysis duration.

[Claim 8]   8. The method of claim 1, further comprising deciding an inventory size based on the excess inventory, the trapped inventory and the impact of the policy inventory.

[Claim 9]   9. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an excess inventory with consideration of the policy inventory and an excess inventory without consideration of the policy inventory.

[Claim 10]   10. The method of claim 9, wherein the policy inventory impact determining is based on a difference between the excess inventory with consideration of the policy inventory and the excess inventory without consideration of the policy inventory.

[Claim 11]   11. The method of claim 1, wherein the excess inventory can be a negative number.

[Claim 12]   12. A system for managing inventory, the system comprising:

means for selecting an analysis duration and at least one analysis point within the analysis duration;
means for determining an excess inventory with consideration of a manufacturing limitation and an excess inventory without consideration of the manufacturing limitation for each analysis point;
means for determining a trapped inventory based on a difference between the excess inventory with consideration of the manufacturing limitation and the excess inventory without consideration of the manufacturing limitation; and
means for determining an impact of a policy inventory on an inventory consumption.

[Claim 13]   13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a means for determining an optimum inventory for each analysis point.

[Claim 14]   14. The system of claim 13, further comprising a means for determining a total optimum inventory based on the optimum inventory at each analysis point.

[Claim 15]   15. The system of claim 12, further comprising a means for determining an inventory that will be consumed in a short term, an inventory that will be consumed in a mid term, an inventory that will be consumed in a long term and an inventory that will not be consumed in a period of time, wherein the short term, mid term and long term are within the analysis duration.

[Claim 16]   16. A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for reporting on performance of a plurality of parameters, the program product comprising:

program code configured to select an analysis duration and at least one analysis point within the analysis duration;
program code configured to determine an excess inventory with consideration of a manufacturing limitation and an excess inventory without consideration of the manufacturing limitation for each analysis point;
program code configured to determine a trapped inventory based on a difference between the excess inventory with consideration of the manufacturing limitation and the excess inventory without consideration of the manufacturing limitation; and
program code configured to determine an impact of a policy inventory on an inventory consumption.

[Claim 17]   17. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising program code configured to determine an optimum inventory for each analysis point.

[Claim 18]   18. The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising program code configured to determine a total optimum inventory based on the optimum inventory at each analysis point.

[Claim 19]   19. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising program code configured to determine an inventory that will be consumed in a short term, an inventory that will be consumed in a mid term, an inventory that will be consumed in a long term and an inventory that will not be consumed in a period of time, wherein the short term, mid term and long term are within the analysis duration.

[Claim 20]   20. The computer program code of claim 16, further comprising program code configured to decide an inventory size based on the excess inventory, the trapped inventory and the impact of the policy inventory.